

Letters to Local papers

When you write or e-mail your local newspaper don't forget to include your full name, address and contact number. They will not include all the information in the paper, but they will want to check that the letter is genuine.

Dear Editor,

I am a nurse/social worker/teaching assistant/ etc and I want to nail once and for all the myth that health /education/local government workers get gold plated pensions when they retire.

The average pension in local government is around £4,000 a year - £2,800 for women/the NHS is £7,500 which includes higher paid consultants and doctors, but for a woman this falls to around £3,000 – not exactly a fortune.

I have saved for my pension all my working life and it is simply unfair for the Government to make public service workers pay another 3% on top of the 6-8% we already pay (insert own figures if you have them).

That is why I am voting yes to strike action on the 30 November.

Yours

Dear Editor,

I am going to vote in favour of strike action over Government plans to make me work longer, pay more and all for a worse pension deal. I've heard people say that I am lucky to get a pension at all, but I have saved for many years for my retirement. If I didn't get a pension I would have to join the millions of other people who haven't put money aside and start claiming benefits.

As a x I don't take strike action lightly (indeed I have never taken action/only taken action xx) but the Government is simply raiding my pension scheme to help pay off the deficit. I did nothing to cause the recession, why should I be made to pay for it?

Yours

Dear Editor,

To me strike action is always a last resort, but I am planning to vote yes over the Government's raid on my pension. It makes me very angry when I hear people say that public service workers get gold-plated pensions – it is simply not true.

The average pension in local government is around £4,000 a year - £2,800 for women/the NHS is £7,500 which includes higher paid consultants and doctors, but for a woman this falls to around £3,000 – I don't call that a fortune.

The pension scheme is not in crisis – in fact more goes into the local government and the health scheme than is paid out to the tune of billions.

The Government wants to set private sector workers against those in the public sector, but the truth is everyone should have a decent pension when they retire.

Yours truly,

Dear Editor,

I am asking all your readers to support me and other public service workers when we take strike action on 30 November. I know that it's a big ask because the Government is doing its best to make out that our pensions are massive and unaffordable – and that is just not true.

The health and local government scheme were renegotiated only a few years ago to make sure that they were fair and sustainable. We had to pay more then, and we now pay between 6-8% of our wage towards a pension and have to work longer. Now the Government is coming after more. The schemes are still sustainable and not a penny of the money that they take from our pay is going into the pension scheme – it is being used to pay off the deficit.

That is why I am going to vote yes to strike action

Dear Editor,

I work as a nurse/paramedic/care worker and I don't think that I will be able to carry on working until I am 66, 67, 68 or 69. I am really worried not just about my own health, but whether I will be a danger (carrying patients, moving patients, caring for the elderly). The Government has simply not thought through their plans to make public service workers work 'till they drop.

I am sick of hearing about gold-plated pensions when the reality is so very different. The average pension in local government is around £4,000 a year - £2,800 for women/the NHS is £7,500 which includes higher paid consultants and doctors, but for a woman this falls to around £3,000 – I don't call that a fortune.

I already pay in xx% to my pension week in week out. My pay has been frozen for xx years and the cost of living is going through the roof. How the Government thinks that I will be able to afford to pay more into my pension is beyond me – I have a family to take care of.

That is why (for the first time) I am going to vote yes to strike action on November 30.

Yours truly,

Dear Editor,

Like many people in xxx I am struggling to cope with the rising cost of everyday essentials like food and fuel. In fact I am dreading the winter when the gas/electricity bills start to come in. So it is with a heavy heart that I will be voting yes to strike action over the Government's plans to raid my pension.

Frankly I can't afford to take action, but I can't afford to do nothing and have to rely on claiming benefits when I retire.

I have saved for many years for my pension and I pay in x% every month. The extra money that the Government is demanding is not going into my pension it is going towards paying off the deficit. It is nothing more than a tax on public service workers. That is why I will be voting to take action on 30 November.

Yours